

Southern Nevada and its tireless efforts in providing veterans with the skills necessary to reintegrate into the local community. This organization's commitment to helping veterans, military servicemembers, and their families get back on their feet is admirable, and I wish it the best of luck in all of its future endeavors.●

RECOGNIZING DR. KENNETH DOBBINS

● Mrs. McCASKILL. Mr. President, I wish to congratulate Dr. Kenneth Dobbins on his retirement and to thank him for his many years of leadership and service to the field of higher education. For 24 years, including the last 16 years as president, Ken Dobbins has served Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau, MO. Ken considered his job as president the position of a lifetime, and his dedication and passion for the University and its students is unparalleled. It is my pleasure to honor him today.

Ken received a B.S. in accounting from the University of Akron in 1971. Upon graduation, Ken served as a commissioned officer and civilian executive in the U.S. Air Force for nearly 10 years and was awarded the 1978 Air Force Audit Agency Outstanding Civilian Auditor of the Year. Ken also received an M.B.A. from Old Dominion University in 1979 and a Ph.D. in higher education administration from Kent State University in 1987.

Before his tenure with Southeast Missouri State, Ken held positions in higher education administration at Kent State. At Southeast Missouri State, Ken served as the University's vice president of finance and administration from 1991 to 1993 and executive vice president from 1993 until his appointment as president in 1999.

During Ken's presidency, the university reached significant milestones in enrollment and diversity, academic partnerships, programs, and construction. Ken's effective leadership shaped Southeast Missouri State University into the outstanding school it is today. As president, one of his greatest accomplishments was the significant increase in enrollment of students. In 1994, there were 7,500 students. Today there are over 12,000 students.

In addition, Ken oversaw more than \$400 million in new construction and building improvement projects, including the Seabaugh Polytechnic Building and the \$58 million River Campus. New academic programs, including the College of Science, Technology, and Agriculture and the Earl and Margie Holland School of Visual and Performing Arts were established. Ken instituted a comprehensive review of all academic and nonacademic programs to minimize student fee increases in the face of extensive State appropriation reductions. He was also responsible for developing an innovative postprofessorial merit program, which provides base salary increases and professional development funds for faculty members.

As president, Ken held numerous leadership positions in higher education administration. He served a 2-year term as president of the Missouri Council on Public Higher Education, and served 3 years as president of the Ohio Valley Conference. He currently serves on the board of directors for the American Association of State Colleges and Universities.

Outside his work in higher education, Ken serves on the Greater St. Louis Area Council for the Boy Scouts of America, and was elected by local council associates to serve on the National Council for the Boy Scouts of America. Ken was awarded the Silver Beaver Award, the highest honor given to a Boy Scout volunteer by a council. Additionally, Ken has been elected to the St. Louis Regional Chamber board of directors and is a member of the Hawthorne Foundation.

Ken is looking forward to spending more time with his wife Jeanine, son Paul, daughter-in-law Stacey, and his two grandchildren. I know they will enjoy the opportunity to spend more time with him. Ken will continue to be involved in higher education during his retirement by serving as a consultant with the American Association of State Colleges and Universities.

It is my pleasure to honor Ken Dobbins today. He has touched the lives of many and immensely improved the quality of Southeast Missouri State University and the Cape Girardeau community. His dedication to higher education and the State of Missouri has been invaluable.

I ask that the Senate join me in congratulating and honoring Dr. Kenneth Dobbins.●

103RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE GIRL SCOUTS OF AMERICA

● Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, today, I wish to recognize the 103rd anniversary of the Girl Scouts of America. What started out as a group of 18 girls in Georgia organized by Juliette Low has grown into an organization of more than 3.2 million girls and women and more than 59 million alumnae, including myself. As a former Girl Scout, I know firsthand how important the Girl Scouts are for learning about leadership, service, and personal development.

When the Girl Scouts started, women couldn't vote, women couldn't have property in their name, and in some States women couldn't go to college. The founding of the Girl Scouts started a revolutionary movement to empower girls. Now, Girl Scouts is working to bring gender balance to leadership roles, whether it is creating jobs in the private sector or representing constituents in public office. I believe in that mission, and I know it can be achieved.

What I love about the Girl Scouts is that it is always reinventing itself and looking to the future. Whether it is new uniforms or new badges, the Girl Scouts are engaging in a new genera-

tion of leadership. Their core programs focused on environmental stewardship, healthy living, financial literacy, and global citizenship help girls develop a solid and well-rounded foundation in leadership. Their award-winning Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics—STEM—Program helps girls build strong, hands-on foundations to become future leaders and meet the growing need for skilled science and technology professionals in the United States. And last year, the Girl Scouts joined the STEM mentoring initiative, Million Women Mentors, a national initiative to increase interest for girls and women to pursue STEM career paths. This program would help close the gender gap in the field and gives girls the confidence and the ability to believe that they too can be those female scientists, engineers, and doctors who are serving as mentors for the program.

I have taken the lessons I learned from the Girl Scouts with me to the U.S. Senate every day and in every way. These lessons include: Let's help people at all times. Let's be honest and fair. Let's be friendly and helpful. Let's be considerate and caring, courageous and strong and responsible. Let's respect ourselves and others, respect authority, use resources wisely, make the world a better place, and be a sister to every Girl Scout whether she is here or around the world. For all of these reasons and more, I am honored to recognize the 103rd anniversary of the Girl Scouts of America.●

RECOGNIZING GIRL SCOUTS OF THE USA

● Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I wish to honor Girl Scouts of the USA. As the proud father of two Girl Scouts, I join them as they celebrate Girl Scout Day. On this day in 1912, Juliette Gordon Low founded the first Girl Scout troop with just 18 girls in Savannah, GA. Over 100 years later, Girl Scouts serves 2 million girls and has 59 million alumnae across the United States.

Juliette Gordon Low believed that all girls should be given the opportunity to develop physically, mentally, and spiritually. Gordon sought to bring girls out of isolated home environments and into community service in order to become well rounded members of society. By building courage, confidence, and character, Girl Scouts raised awareness on important issues. They became leaders and made their way into American hearts.

Girl Scouts today participate in numerous activities that foster and strengthen their leadership abilities, financial literacy, outdoor and environmental awareness, and teach them the value of service. They learn new skills that help them develop their full individual potential, and take action to improve the world around them. Girls who earn the Gold Award, the highest achievement a Girl Scout can earn,